

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite form editing apparatus for editing form data, which is constituted of a plurality of parts forms, to be overlaid on print data, said apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing composite form setting data which describes objects and a dependency relationship among these objects, where ~~each object includes a page~~ the objects include a page which constitutes the form data and a parts form which constitutes the page;

display means for displaying, on a display in accordance with the composite form setting data, the objects and the dependency relationship thereof as a tree which connects image objects corresponding to the objects;

determination means for determining a position where the image objects is dropped on the tree in accordance with an operation by an operator; and

editing means for editing the description of the composite form setting data in accordance with the position where the image object is dropped determined by said determination means.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operation by the operator includes an operation for moving or copying the image objects; and

said editing means includes an operation for moving or copying, in conformity with the manipulation of an image object, the description of the object, which corresponds to the image object that has been manipulated, in the composite form setting data that has been stored in said storage means.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a name of the parts form constituting a page composing the form data is described in the composite form setting data as well as a type of page indicating whether a page is subject of both side printing with respect to each page.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a page, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be added onto the end of a page located at the destination of movement.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a page, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a page located at the destination of movement.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the form data further includes double sides which include the objects of two pages, and in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a page, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page and a prescribed operation is being performed along with the move operation, a double-sided object is generated that includes a page corresponding to the moved image object and a page located at the destination of movement.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a part form, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a parts form located at the destination of movement.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator to a position other than that of an image object, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a new page will be inserted at the end of the form data and a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be inserted as a parts form included on said page.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator to a position other than that of an image object, said editing means edits the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object, inclusive of a parts form included on this page, will be added onto the end of the form data.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the operation by an operator includes an operation for moving an image object from outside the tree, and said editing means, in conformity with the manipulation of the object, adds the description of an object, which corresponds to an image object that has been moved, onto the composite form setting data that has been stored in said storage means.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in a case where a prescribed operation has been performed by the operator when an image object is moved, said editing means performs further editing, after the editing of the form data, in such a manner that an object corresponding to an image object that has been moved by the operator is deleted from the position occupied prior to movement.

12. (Currently Amended) A composite form editing method for editing form data, which is constituted of a plurality of parts forms, to be overlaid on print data, said method comprising:

a storing step, of storing composite form setting data which describes objects and a dependency relationship among these objects, wherein each object includes the objects include

a page which constitutes the form data and a parts form which constitutes the page;

a displaying [[,]]step, of displaying, on a display in accordance with the composite form setting data, the objects and the dependency relationship thereof as a tree which connects image objects corresponding to the objects;

a determining step, of determining a position where the image objects is dropped on the tree in accordance with an operation by an operator; and

an editing step, of editing the description of the composite form setting data in accordance with the position where the image data is dropped determined in said determining step.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the operation by the operator includes an operation for moving or copying the image objects; and

said editing step includes moving or copying, in conformity with the manipulation of an image object, the description of the object, which corresponds to the image object that has been manipulated, in the composite form setting data that has been stored in said storage step.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein a name of the parts form constituting a page composing the form data is described in the composite form setting data as well as a type of page indicating whether a page is subject of both side printing with respect to each page.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a page, said editing step includes editing the form data in such a manner that if the moved image

object is a parts form, a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be added onto the end of a page located at the destination of movement.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a page, said editing step includes editing the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a page located at the destination of movement.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the form data further includes double sides which include the objects of two pages, and in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a page, said editing step includes editing the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page and a prescribed operation is being performed along with the move operation, a double-sided object is generated that includes a page corresponding to the moved image object and a page located at the destination of movement.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator onto an image object indicating a part form, said editing step includes editing the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be added on immediately ahead of a parts form located at the destination of movement.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator to a position other than that of an image object, said editing step includes editing the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a parts form, a new page will be inserted at the end of the form data and a parts form corresponding to the moved image object will be inserted as a parts form included on said page.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case where an image object has been moved by the operator to a position other than that of an image object, said editing step includes editing the form data in such a manner that if the moved image object is a page, a page corresponding to the moved image object, inclusive of a parts form included on this page, will be added onto the end of the form data.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the operation by the operator includes an operation for moving an image object from outside the tree, and said editing step, in conformity with the manipulation of the object, includes adding the description of an object, which corresponds to an image object that has been moved, onto the composite form setting data that has been stored in said storage step.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein, in a case where a prescribed operation has been performed by the operator when an image object is moved, said editing step includes performing further editing, after the editing of the form data, in such a manner that an object corresponding to an image object that has been moved by the operator is deleted from the position occupied prior to movement.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program of a composite form editing method for editing form data, which is constituted of a plurality of parts forms, to be overlaid on print data, said control program comprising:

storage means for storing composite form setting data which describes objects and a dependency relationship among these objects, wherein ~~each object includes~~ the objects include a page which constitutes the form data and a parts form which constitutes the page;

display means for displaying, on a display in accordance with the composite form setting data, the objects and the dependency relationship thereof as a tree which connects image objects corresponding to the objects;

determining means for determining a position where the image objects is dropped on the tree in accordance with an operation by an operator; and

editing means for editing the description of the composite form setting data in accordance with the position where the image object is dropped determined by said determination means.

24. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the operation by the operator includes an operation for moving or copying the image objects; and

said editing means moves or copies, in conformity with the manipulation of an image object, the description of the object, which corresponds to the image object that has been manipulated, in the composite form setting data that has been stored in said storage means.

25. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 24, wherein a name of the parts form constituting a page composing the form data is described in the composite form setting data as well as a type of page indicating whether a page is subject of both side printing with respect to each page.